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OREGON OPERATIONS OFFICE

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EPA-REGION 10

U.S. EPA
ATTN: Harbor Comments
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97205

As experts have already found and informed the EPA, sometimes nature can take care of itself. Evidence has shown that the Willamette River is healing, but that the EPA wants to interfere and dredge the river for buried contaminants and pollutants. The EPA's proposal is not a commonsense approach and does not seem to be what is best for the river. A less intrusive approach will be better for the river and for the people. What the EPA is proposing right now is comparable to opening up a wasps' nest where, inevitably, someone is going to get stung.

I am one of the owners of Recording Associates, an audio/video production duplication company that has been in Portland since 1968. As a business owner, I can see how businesses close to the area where dredging is being proposed would be concerned about their well-being. Portland's economy is interdependent, in that businesses here, like mine, provide services for other businesses. If other businesses don't have the funds to pay for services, due to having to close or missing clientele, it will have a severe economic impact on all of the businesses here. As such, the businesses most closely related to the proposed dredging that will lose money will create a ripple effect on all of the other businesses in Portland.

The EPA should consider other cleanup alternatives that will minimize the negative impacts on the business community of Portland. Businesses such as mine that have been in existence for 50+ years should not be held responsible because the government has been stupid. Portland has already taken a lot of funds out of the water barrel's budget for things like buying trees and creating bike lanes. Because of this, the water bills in Portland are already sky-high and are some of the highest in the state. Rather than the EPA spending \$1 billion on this project, that money can be given to the Portland Water Bureau to actually fix what they should have fixed years ago.

Any time government gets out of hand, it is up to citizens to stop it. The EPA's proposal to dredge Willamette River will be costly, ineffective, and should not be allowed to proceed.

Sincerely,

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Owner